



# INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Jon Bumgartel, Principal, St. John's Lutheran School

FROM: PJ McGrew, acting Hearing Officer

RE: Appeal by St. John's Lutheran School of its 2015–16 Letter Grade

DATE: March 28, 2017

**Finding:** St. John's Lutheran School appeal of its 2015-16 category placement of an "F" grade should be approved.

## I. Facts

St. John's Lutheran School ("St. John's") in Seymour, Indiana began utilizing the ISTEP+ assessment in the 2015–16 school year and became subject to the State Board of Education's accountability rule for the first time. In the 2015–16 school year, all eligible students in grades 3-8 at St. John's were assessed using the ISTEP+ assessment for the first time. St. John's school accountability grade was an F.

## II. Argument and Analysis

The SBOE's accountability rule allows new schools to receive a grade calculation based solely on growth for the first three years. See 511 IAC 6.2-10-10. Hence, St. John's should receive a grade calculation based on growth only for 2015-16, its first year adhering to the accountability model. However, there is no growth to calculate the 2015-2016 grade for St. John's.

For the foregoing reason, St. John's "F" grade should be altered, and a "null" grade assigned.